

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In a society, has fallen prey to separate on the basis of race, gender, class, culture age, ethnicity, and other social diversity. It is evident that individuals in a society are perceived by many as being fundamentally different. All of those factors were become an alienated for human being to faced on the social problems on their live. It is depend on each human being how they can control their social feeling and social relation on their environment where they live.

A positive or negative attitude toward an individual based on his or her membership in a religious, racial, ethnic, political, or other. The positive attitude can apply when they accepted in their society, they do not have a social conflict with other group, and the negative attitude can be known by if they can separated in their social diversity or other group in society. The social conflict within society like the variety of sex, gender, race, ethnic, religion, and political beliefs, was become tendencies of human being to live in society.

Stereotypes, Prejudices and discriminations is including of the social relation within society. The main Stereotyping goes way beyond race and gender. Stereotyping can be reduced by bringing people together. Stereotyping often much

happens because of aggressive or unkind thoughts. When they discover the other people are not as the stereotype, a facts creates difference that improves thoughts about the other group. Prejudice can appearance when there are judgment toward a people or a person because of race, social class, gender, ethnicity, age, political beliefs, religion, sexual orientation or other personal characteristics. Though, discrimination can occur on society as an action of prejudice. Racial and ethnic discrimination, sex and gender discrimination, religion and sexual orientation are including of some type of discrimination toward human being in society.

The phenomena above can also be found in literary work especially in novel. In this case, the writer intends to conduct a study of social relation aspect of main character, Pecola in the *The Bluest Eye*, a novel written by Tony Morrison. *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison's first novel was published in 1970. Holt, Rinehart and Winston was a publisher in this novel, Morrison's first novel was not an immediate success, in a new afterword to the novel's 1993 reprinted. This novel has 224 pages that are divided into four season-autumn, winter, spring and summer.

Toni Morrison is a black outstanding author who is able to make her works become the winner of the Nobel Prize in literature. Morrison was born in Lorain, Ohio, on February 18, 1931. Her father was handworker and dignified man, her mother was church-going woman. Morrison was a smart student. She graduated with honors from Lorain High School. Although Morrison belong black people who find it difficult to achieve advanced education, she succeeded entering the prestigious

Howard University in Washington D.C, where she majored in English with a minor in classics.

Morrison graduated from Howard University in 1953 with a B.A. in English. She attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and received a Master's degree in 1955. After graduating, Toni was offered a job in Texas Southern University in Houston, where she taught introductory English. In 1957 she returned to Howard University as a member of faculty. Toni married to Jamaican architect, Horald Morrison in 1958. Having two children from her marriage, she was divorced from her husband. After that, Morrison joined a small writers group. In this group, she began her carrier as an author.

She developed it into her first novel *The Bluest Eye* that was published in 1970. After success in her first novel, Morrison starting to write second novel, *Sula*. This novel was published in 1973; it was nominated for 1975 National Book Award in fiction. *Song of Solomon* (1977), *Tar Baby* (1981), *a drama* (1984), *Beloved* (1987), *Jazz* (1992), and *Paradise* (1998) were Morrison' next novel and drama that almost of the themes merely confirm black society, race discrimination, and gender.

The Bluest Eye is told from five perspectives: Pecola's, her mother's, her father's, her friend Claudia's, and Soaphead Church's. *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison's first novel, examines the social conflict like violence, sexuality, social hatred, racism, obsessed, were facing down by Pecola as the main character. The

social relation also exposed such stereotypes, children prejudice and discrimination that show her banned from her school and environment because of her black, dirty and ugliness. Set in Morrison's hometown of Lorain, Ohio, in the early 1940s. It was portrayed a story of three little girl Pecola Breedlove and Claudia and Frieda McTeer., who is abused by almost everyone in her life. The Breedloves are poor, unhappy, and troubled. She faced on racism, not just from the white people, but also from the African American people. In her eyes, her skin is too dark, and the color of her skin makes her inferior to everyone else. The color of her skin makes her think that she is ugly.

The story begin with a Claudia serves as the first narrator of the book and summarizes the plot story. In her school Pecola does not have friends except Claudia and Frieda, it caused by very ugly and her skin a lot of darker than more over black people even people abuse her. Pecola obsessed with A Shirley Temples which is has white skin and blue eye. She drunk three quarts of milk in one day in order to continue admiring it and she confides that she prays every night that God will give her blue eyes. It is considers the standard of beauty by her mindset. Pecola feels that beauty is the only way to solve all of her racism problems. She feels that if she has white skin and blue eye her parents will no longer fight. Her family will not be poor, and her father will no longer be a rapist. Pecola reached this mindset through extreme events in her life.

She was isolated from her school and environment where she live, She felt hatred with everybody's who was isolated her. Everyday, she prays for God for making her beautiful by changed her eyes and her skin. She felt like beauty was found in the light skin, blue eyed, blond hair, like Sirllly Temple image. Pecola is obsessed it greatly. And she also ask Elihue Micah Whitcomb (Soaphead Church) to make her wish come true of having blue eyes. She is left to talk to her only friend, an imaginary friend about the new blue eyes that she thinks. She is only concerned that they are having the bluest eyes and become a pretty girl.

Pauline as her mother she falls under of lifestyle, beauty standards that she cannot achieve her condition and greater isolation. Pecola's parents, Pauline and Cholly Breedlove, have a bad marriage. Her mother is always working hard and irritating Cholly, while Cholly has a bad habit as a home drunker and always beating Pauline. Cholly, the product of a broken home, cannot come to good parent based on Pauline's expectations. Other members of the community, including Geraldine, a neighborhood black woman, and Soaphead Church, a West Indian religious leader, express similar feelings of self-hatred and unkind. In the whole of the story is about the madness from Pecola, she just herself to face her life without awareness from her mother, Mrs Breedlove never give sympathy for Pecola, She fullfil her love on the white family for whom she works, while her own family lives in broken.

There are many responses of Tony Morrison's *Bluest Eye* novels. John Leonard from New York Time argues that Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* is an

inquiry into the reasons why beauty is wasted in this country, He assumed that *The Bluest Eye* is also history, sociology, folklore, nightmare, and music. In Goodreads site, some people give their response about Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* novel such as Sara who interesting with the novel, she argued that *The Bluest Eye* is awesome, it is so deep in terms of the themes and the authorial message. Andrea, read the novel in March 2001 told that the narrative of changing protagonist and almost poetic language makes this novel different from most. On Katie point of view that this novel is devastating but worth the painful encounter for Morrison's phenomenally crafted prose, which is immersive and fascinating at describing anything from a rip in a couch to a father raping his daughter. ([http://www. Oprah/Community/.com](http://www.Oprah/Community/.com)).

Beside the positive responses, there are also negative responses in *The Bluest Eye* novel, Lisa Williams on the artist as Storyteller, she assume that Rape which is shown by Morrison's can influence the abusive for children, By describing Cholly in sympathetic terms, she makes his aggressive act all the fact are violent and precarious. Jane S. Bakerman apply notes, For Pecola, the healthy sexual encounter symbolizing initiation into the adult world is forbidden, for when someone does see her as lovable, it is her father, and he rapes her, it is not justify for Pecola to reach their childhood freedom, Evelyn Jaffe Schreiber argued that *The Bluest Eye* utilizes double-consciousness to expose the other in the self, contrasting black social immobility, it built up the American standard myth that the social white communities is more dominant in that black communities, By presenting black consciousness as

the gaze of the Other, Morrison's novel illustrates the ever-present threat to subjectivity. (<http://www.reviews/Bloomsguide/TonnyMorrison/s/index.html>)

In *The Bluest Eye*, as the researcher for one, three appeals appear in this novel. They are plot appeal, character appeal, and theme appeal. The plot appeal from this novel is the different stereotypes society has created for those backgrounds affect their judgment, beliefs and actions. In whole a story, this portrayed on going problems that affect the black race. In her story can also give a description about the American myth of beauty applied by a member of black American society, in this case a young black girl.

The character appeals in this movie when the storied about Pecola with the main character as a young black girl. *The Bluest Eye* novel also exposes some common and critical issue in America community, like racism, self-hatred, and abandonment. As Pecola's character had an obsessed of blue eye and entire of her life which is had crucial problems in racial irritation, confused child experiencing puberty, and socially awkward as a black girl. Throughout the story, Pecola had been going to tough and hard times, through her family and environment around her life.

The last appeal is Theme appeals, related with stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. A stereotype, portrayed on Pecola as black girl had on her desire to be loved into a desire to have blue eyes and blond hair; in other words, to basically look like Shirley Temple which is has white skin and blue eye. Prejudice showing by there

is judgments from her society about her black skin and standard of American beauty. A discrimination also examines by there is no tolerance and space black dirty and ugly girls in her environment where she live.

The Bluest Eye appointed two of the behaviors observed on this novel based on main character life which is influenced on the social condition, and environment. This novel is deals with the social psychological phenomena that related with class discussions such racism, violence, self-identity, and also social relation like stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination were faced by Pecola and her entire family in *Bluest Eye* Novels.

Considering to the explanation above, the researcher tries to analyze the movie by using social psychological approach because of consideration below. Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination was emerge as the social problem in Tony Morrison's novel run her desire to very impressive for this study to encourage research by the title "STEREOTYPES, PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION IN TONY MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE* (1970): SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH".

B. Literature Review

The Bluest Eye is one of the greatest literary work from Tony Morrison which is covered the social relation between racist and ethnicity; it also contains many aspects that are interesting to be studied. However, based on the researcher's

observation, the researcher found that no one had conducted a research in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta to study that novel. But there is only one researcher in Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta who study *The Bluest Eye* novel, Setya Ananta (2005) conducts of study of general structural approach in his research entitled: *The American Myth of Beauty as Reflected in Toni Morrison*. This research is about the standard of American Myth of Beauty. From the literature review above, the researcher decides to conduct a research on stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination in Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* by using Social Psychological approach to analyze.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the writer proposes a problem statement. The problem of the research is do the stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination appear in Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*?

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis of the stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination that influences the psychological of personality in each of group in Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* by social psychological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the novel based on the structural elements of the movie, and
2. To analyze the novel based on the social psychological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. This study can give significant contribution to the development of literary study.
2. This study helps the researcher to get more knowledge or information especially based on social psychological approach in line with stereotypes and prejudices in Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

In this study, the writer uses the descriptive qualitative method as type of the research. It purposes to analyze novel based on the structural elements of the movie and to analyze the novel based on the social psychological perspective.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data in this study is a text that consists of words, phrases and sentences. There are two data sources in this study. They are the primary data source and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* novel.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source consists of the other data, which have relationship with the study, such as some biography of the author, and other relevant information.

3. Technique of Collecting Data

The method the writer uses to collect data is both documentation by collecting and recording the primary and secondary source, library research by summarizing, paraphrasing and wording. The researcher uses documentation as technique of data collecting. The writer takes the following steps such are:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly after for material of criticism.
- b. Taking notes of the important part in primary and secondary data.
- c. Classifying the data into some categories.
- d. Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant information, this does not Support the topic of the study.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis of the research is descriptive analysis. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the novel and social psychological analysis. Hence, the collected data are interpreted and analyzed in detail through the appropriate approach, in this case is Social Psychological Approach

to show the influence of Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination on Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.

H. Research Paper Organization

Chapter I is Introduction that consists of the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II delivers underlying theory, which covers the notion of social psychology, social relation, structural element of novel, and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis, which presents structural element of novel and discussion. Chapter IV discusses social psychological analysis, and Chapter V draws the conclusion and suggestion.